

Aja

Age 20

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Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services:

Bi-weekly Report July 9-16 2009

As a young intern working in the John A. Wilson Building, for the Mayor's office I can actually say I have obtained a lot of knowledge and first hand experience on benefitting the city of Washington, DC. My first day on the job was July 9th, where I assisted with the advising various concerns of some constituencies that reside in Ward 5. I was assigned to intern under the supervision of Alice Thompson, who is the outreach and service specialist for Ward 5. In doing so, I addressed the issues pertaining to an elderly woman within the community who needed assistance with her roof work and other house installments, people in need of medicaid and food stamps for their survival, and others stepping up against the violence in the community. I also informed a Dr. Clarence Brown of a particular situation regarding an elderly woman. On the following day, I joined other MOCR interns in a meeting with Mayor Adrian Fenty along with Outreach and Service Specialists. In this meeting, they focused on the post and pre moments of the city fix-its; which I have come to learn is the addressing of various concerns and issues of a specific area of a given ward. Once addressed the appearance of its community is improved.

Later on that evening, two other interns and I took part in a walk-thru with the Mayor, on ANC commissioner of Ward 5, community representatives, and other residents. Our journey began at O St. and continued on towards First and New Jersey Ave. Concerns were addressed regarding loitering issues, gang related activity, littering, and the billboards in the lot on the corner of P St. and New Jersey Ave NE. It was amazing to see the amount of people that took pride in their neighborhood needs and how this appeals to other people in the city.

July 17, at the start of a new week, I looked forward to what new “adventures”; as I like to entitle it, were in store for me. I acquired the opportunity of attending a Press conference at Drew Elementary School in South East Washington DC, with Emmanuel Bellegard (Ward 7 Outreach and Services Specialist) and two other interns. We observed the announcement of the DCPS 2009 DC Comprehensive Assessment System Tests Scores. At the attention of Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Deputy Mayor for Education Victor Reinoso were many staff and supporters of the DC Public Schools System. After the scores were announced, the questions and concerns of the audience were addressed. Overall, it was announced that the students excelled with about a 4-6% increase in proficient math and reading scores.

After observing Ward 5 and Ward 7, I got the chance to work in Ward 6. In Ward 6, I visited an alley off of H St. and 5th St. in the NE quadrant of DC was filled with debris and trash with Outreach and Service Specialist Chris Taylor and Forest Hayes and two other interns. The organization of DPW and SACD assisted in cleaning out the location of molded boards, destroyed mattresses, bottles and other trash. The lot sat behind an abandoned house which attracted a negative crowd of people to linger around

and perform illegal acts. The following day we monitored Mayor Conservation Corp participants notifying the residents in the neighborhood in the area of 11th St. -15th St. over to Pennsylvania Ave. – L St. of the new park that they will have access to. Later on throughout the week we visited the Hopkins community to keep track of the construction on the new children's play area, Skate Park, and the basketball court to be equipped for the ribbon cutting held on Thursday, July 16th. The ribbon cutting in itself was a great success; the community of Hopkins was greatly appreciative and could not wait to enjoy their new amenities. I greatly appreciate my first week and I look forward for more weeks to come and the opportunity.